

**The history of a case of chorea, successfully treated by means of camphor
/ by John Wilson.**

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IV.

The History of a Case of Chorea, successfully treated by means of Camphor. By John Wilfon, M. D. Physician at Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

A NN GASKILL, a poor girl, 15 years of age, after having been exposed to cold and wet weather, in August 1786 was seized with irregular convulsive motions of the right arm and leg. These symptoms gradually became more violent and extended. The muscles of the trunk of the body were similarly affected; and the leg and arm of the left side were frequently convulsed. Her head was repeatedly drawn aside; and on lifting any thing to her mouth, her arm was frequently and irregularly retracted. Her body was violently distorted when she attempted to speak, and what she uttered was

X 3. unintelligible.

unintelligible. The powers of her mind were evidently impaired; and, by the appearance of her countenance, there was no inconsiderable degree of fatuity. Her body was much emaciated; the pulse was small and quick; her skin parched; what sleep she obtained was broken and attended with moaning; her body was bound; the catamenia had never appeared. For several months during the first part of her illness she was attended by Mr Brook, an ingenious and humane surgeon in this place. He gave her the most powerful medicines in the class of tonics; such as bark, zinc, cuprum ammoniacum, chalybeates, mercury, and bitters, without the smallest advantage. Wearied at length with repeated ineffectual efforts to relieve her, he desired I would attend her; and I found her with the symptoms I have described.

Viewing her disease as the effect of great mobility in the nervous system, I ordered her one of the most powerful in the class of nervous medicines, Camphor. She began with four grains three times in the day, with a small portion of asa-fœtida. Her symptoms were evidently relieved after she had
continued

continued her medicine some little time. Encouraged by this faint gleam of success, I increased the dose of the camphor gradually to eighteen grains four times in the day. This plan she pursued steadily, joined with a generous diet, for nearly three months. Every day gave her new incitement to adhere to it; and her perseverance is now rewarded by the enjoyment of her former health and vigour.

I have since given the camphor to an epileptic boy, in doses of thirty grains, with considerable benefit.

